

Remarks

The Office Action has been carefully reviewed and this Response is prepared in view of the Examiner's comments in the Action. Applicants appreciate the attention of the Examiner to the application.

Claims 1-18 were pending in the application. Claims 12-18 are allowed. Claims 4-11 were indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form. Claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,119,767 to Jimenez. Claim 3 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jimenez in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,435,272 to Epstein.

Claim 1 is herein amended to require that the first and second ends of the support belt be connected together at a coupling at the rear portion and that the handle be connected to the rear portion of the upper torso support component and rear portion of the lower torso support component such that when supporting the child aloft by the handle, no coupling bears the child's weight. In Jimenez chest pad 5 (a velcro coupling) is positioned at the front of the child. Therefore, if back safety strap 10 is used as a handle and a child is lifted, the child will fall from the harness if the velcro coupling is uncoupled. Likewise, the Epstein buckle is positioned at the front of the child and bears the child's weight when lifted. These devices are contrary to the concept of the harness claimed in claim 1 which provides complete support to a child held aloft therein. The child remains secure in the claimed harness even if a coupling is uncoupled since no coupling bears the child's weight.

Claim 12, previously allowed, has been amended to correct an error in describing the connection of the handle to the upper and lower torso supports.

New independent claims 19 and 20 have been added. Claim 19 includes the requirements of previously presented dependent claim 4. Claim 20 is similar to claim 1 as previously presented, but includes more particular requirements regarding the handle.

Applicants believe that the rejection of claims 1-3 has been traversed and that all claims are in form for allowance. Early favorable action is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney if that would be helpful in facilitating resolution of any issues which might remain.

Please debit Deposit Account 10-0270 for the fee associated with having 4 independent claims. If any other fees are due, please debit Deposit Account 10-0270 and inform the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to: MAIL STOP AMENDMENT, COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, P.O. BOX 1450, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450 on September 29, 2004.

Chris Wipper
Name

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Signature

9/29/04
Date